

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 080059 TOSEC 030029  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY S/S:PTARNOFF:BABS  
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-----017709 290241Z /65  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 080059 TOSEC 030029

NODIS  
FOR WISNER TO DELIVER TO THE SECRETARY

FOL RPT TEL AVIV 4211 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT  
CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA JERUSALEM USUN NY 28 MAR 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 4211

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: IS, US, EG, XF, PEPR, PGOV  
SUBJ: BEGIN'S MOOD

1. SINCE RETURNING FROM WASHINGTON SATURDAY NIGHT, I HAVE  
HAD THREE OPPORTUNITIES TO OBSERVE PRIME MINISTER BEGIN  
CLOSELY, ONE AT A LARGE DINNER HE GAVE FOR THE TIME/LIFE  
STUDY GROUP OF TOP U.S. EXECUTIVES AT WHICH HE BOTH  
SPOKE AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS, ONCE IN A LENGTHY AND DIFFI-  
CULT PRIVATE MEETING WITH SENATOR JAVITS, AND TODAY  
(MARCH 28) IN A BRIEF PRIVATE CHAT WHILE WE WERE WAITING  
FOR ANOTHER AMERICAN VISITOR TO ARRIVE. HE IS DEFINITELY  
IN A STATE OF CONSIDERABLE DEPRESSION AS A RESULT OF HIS  
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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 080059 TOSEC 030029

TALKS IN WASHINGTON. VERY SOBER AND PREOCCUPIED,  
FREQUENTLY WITHDRAWN, MORE DIFFICULT TO CONVERSE WITH  
THAN I HAVE SEEN HIM, AND VISIBLY ATTEMPTING TO PUT  
THE BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON HIS OWN VERY GLOOMY MOOD,  
BEGIN GIVES EVERY APPEARANCE OF A MAN WHO HAS BEEN BADLY  
SHAKEN. BOTH PUBLICLY AND EVEN MORE IN PRIVATE, HE  
RETURNS OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO THE "INJUSTICE"

WHICH HE SEES IN THE WAY IN WHICH WE HAVE "ABANDONED" HIS PEACE PLANS. HE SEEMS TO BE LOOKING INWARD INTO HIS OWN THOUGHTS EVEN WHILE CONVERSING; HE REPEATS ALL OF HIS FAMILIAR THEMES WITH ELOQUENCE AND ROTE PERSISTENCE IN A FASHION MORE PLEADING IN TONE THAN WAS FORMERLY THE CASE, ALMOST BEGGING THE HEARER TO ADMIT THAT HE HAS BEEN UNFAIRLY TREATED BY THE U.S. BUT HE SHOWS NOT THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF BEGINNING TO RETHINK ANY OF HIS POSITIONS IN LIGHT OF WHAT HE HEARD IN WASHINGTON. ON THE CONTRARY, HE ONLY REASSERTS THEM WITH A MORE PERSISTENT, IMPORTUNATE TONE.

2. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY STRIKING IN THE MEETING WITH SENATOR JAVITS. JAVITS URGED BEGIN WITH GREAT FORCE AND ELOQUENCE TO PUT HIS EMOTIONS AND HIS FEELING OF HAVING BEEN MISTREATED BEHIND HIM, AS "ANY MAN IN POLITICAL LIFE MUST," AND FOCUS ON WHAT MUST BE DONE TO MODIFY HIS PEACE PROPOSALS IF THEY ARE TO AGAIN BE THE SUBJECT OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. JAVITS BLUNTLY EXPLAINED TO BEGIN WHY "THE FAVORABLE WORDS ABOUT HIS PEACE PLANS IN DECEMBER DISAPPEARED IN MARCH." JAVITS ATTRIBUTED THE CHANGE IN U.S. ATTITUDE TO A LOSS OF ISRAELI CREDIBILITY FROM THEIR ILL-ADVISED ACTIONS INVOLVING SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY AND THE INTERPRETATION OF 242. JAVITS TALKED LIKE A KINDLY DUTCH UNCLE TO BEGIN FOR THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR ABOUT ISRAEL'S DECLINING POSITION IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE NEED TO REASS-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 080059 TOSEC 030029

ESS SOME OF HIS POSITIONS IF IT IS TO BE ARRESTED. DESPITE THE PATIENCE AND ATTENTION HE DEMONSTRATED IN HEARING JAVITS OUT, BEGIN'S RESPONSES SUGGESTED THAT HE HAD BEEN LISTENING MOST OF THE TIME TO SOME INNER DRUMMER. HE RETURNED TO THE THEME OF INJUSTICE, AND SEEMED INCAPABLE AT LEAST AT THAT MOMENT OF THINKING CONSTRUCTIVELY ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO DEAL WITH THE THREATENING POLITICAL SITUATION JAVITS DESCRIBED.

3. ALSO NOTICEABLE ON EACH OF THESE OCCASIONS HAS BEEN BEGIN'S PHYSICAL FRAILTY. HE GIVES TELLTALE INDICATIONS OF SOME CHEST PAIN, SEEMS TIRED AND DEPRESSED, AND IS OBVIOUSLY A MAN UNDER CONSIDERABLE EMOTIONAL TENSION. BUT THERE IS NO LACK OF DETERMINATION EVIDENT. HE ACTS LIKE A MAN WHO HAS BEEN WRONGED, NOT A MAN WHO ADMITS HIMSELF TO HAVE BEEN WRONG. AND THIS DISTINCTION SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

LEWIS

UNQUOTE COOPER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PEACE, CAT-B, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** PTARNOFF:BABS  
**Enclosure:** REPEAT OF TEL AVIV 4211  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3168142  
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**Subject:** BEGIN'S MOOD  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PGOV, IS, US, EG, XF, (JAVITS, JACOB), (BEGIN, MENACHEM)  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
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